



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR COUNTY SAFE SIDEWALKS/GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD**

### ***To Recognize Individuals' Exemplary Efforts in Clearing Ice and Snow from Sidewalks***

With snow on the ground and more in the forecast, County residents will have plenty of opportunities to nominate their friends and neighbors for the County's "Golden Shovel" award -- recognizing those County individuals whose generous hard work in clearing sidewalks of snow and ice has benefited others.

"This award is intended to recognize those individuals who have gone 'above and beyond' the call of duty in helping their neighbors to clear ice and snow from County sidewalks," said Councilmember Floreen, the originator of the idea and chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

"We all have a civic duty to pitch in and help. Our seniors, our schoolchildren, our disabled community, and those who walk to work or use mass transit depend on cleared sidewalks. It's a matter of convenience and public safety -- and a critical piece for improving transportation in the County."

Dubbed the "SAFE Golden Shovel Award Program" -- SAFE equaling "Sidewalks Are For Everyone" -- nominations for this year would be due to the Council by March 15 with awards to be

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presented by March 30. Residents can send nominations to the County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850 or via email to [county.council@co.mo.md.us](mailto:county.council@co.mo.md.us). Nomination forms are also available on the County Council website [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council).

In April, 2001, the County Council passed into law legislation to require County residents to clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall, with strong support from seniors, families with schoolchildren, and the disabilities community. Similar regulations have already been in effect for many years in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, as well as in Prince George's and Howard counties and in the District of Columbia.

"By recognizing those who have gone out of their way to help their neighbors, I hope we also highlight the need for everyone to pitch in a little so we can all have a big benefit," said Floreen.

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